



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE ABSURD KIND



n motion pictures, books and television (remember "Star Trek?"), science fiction has always claimed millions of serious devotees. But no matter how much early confidence George Lucas may have had in the ultimate popularity of his film, Star Wars, he couldn't possibly have guessed the degree of national furor that would be created by his robot-filled fantasy.

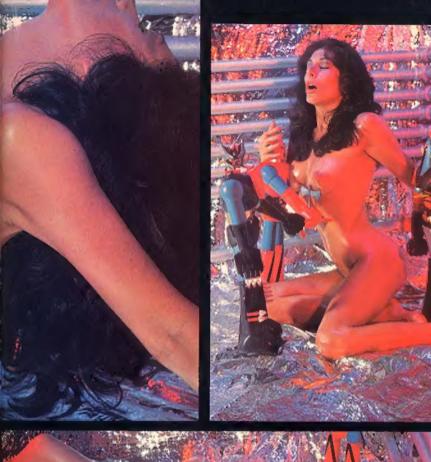
Already, Hollywood insiders are predicting an even greater popular and financial success for David Spiel-



berg's forthcoming Close Encounters of the Third Kind, a U.F.O. tale about visitors from outer space. According to reports, Close Encounters may well make Spielberg's earlier hit, Jaws, communications of the Communication of the Communicati

Given those successes, there seems tittle doubt that imitative producers will soon be filling both the big screen. and the little tube with all sorts of variations on the science liction theme.

All of this inspired Gallery to find out what would happen if three very mechanical robots were to suddenly encounter a very down to earth earth ling. Judging from our observations, the metal tric seemed to know the terfain very well—which leads us to con-









clude that things must be pretty much the same throughout the galactic universe. If so, there's reason to hope for some interesting discoveries as our own space explorations get under way.

We are left with one lingering worry, however. As we human males continue to seek labor-saving mechanical devices to ease our daily bufdens, let's not go so far that we begin to assign robots to take over all of our activities. We'll want to reserve a lew choice ones for ourselves.



